

## The Anti-Christ

**T**he mystery of iniquity, even now at work in the church world, indicates something hidden, something working under the guise of truth. It had begun to work already in Paul's day through false prophets and deceitful workers, transforming themselves into "apostles" of Christ. (No marvel, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light – *II Cor. 11:13-15*.) Thus through those *in* the Church whom he could influence and deceive (the "holier" the better), Satan began immediately to distort the truth and lead the Church astray. This has continued through the many years until there was an almost complete falling away (apostasy), finding its culmination in "***Mystery Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth***" (*Rev. 17:4-6*). This falling away from the original Truth of Jesus Christ is evident today in both Catholic and Protestant churches. But the power of Satan to work within the Church and blind the saints with Babylon's doctrines and ways will be taken out from their midst when the glorified Firstfruit saints, direct from the Throne of God, begin to appear. During 40 days or possibly 42 months, they will set things straight.

God conforms all things to His basic pattern. Jesus also, after His resurrection into a glorified body, appeared among the Disciples during a period of 40 days, speaking about the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God (*Acts 1:3*). Through the manifestation of the Sons of God, the Church will be liberated from the satanic deceptions and counterfeits, and will be made ready for the Tribulation ministry in power and glory.

There is also a second factor which will cause Satan's deceiving and hindering tactics to be taken out from their midst. Fifty-six days after the Manchild group has been caught up and fifty days after these glorified saints begin to appear on earth, a great Pentecostal outpouring of power will fall upon *prepared* and waiting Christians. Then the restoration of the Church to original apostolic power and authority will come quickly. Miracles, signs and wonders will again be the order of the day. This "latter rain" will be much greater than the "former rain" of the early Church (*Joel 2:23, Hag. 2:9*). The deceptive and corrupting tactics of Satan will not succeed among the saints who make up this Glorious Church, for Christ will begin to be revealed in and through His Church in reality and power. Multitudes in the Babylon church systems will hear the call, "***Come out from her, My people, so that you shall not share in her sins, neither participate in her plagues***" (*Rev. 18:4*).

To offset any possible misunderstanding, let it be understood that it is only the hindrances and deceits which are removed by the availability of full Truth. Opportunity to deviate from Truth is not removed. Truth must reign, if anyone is to progress. That means each one is called to determination, strength and fortitude to answer only to Truth. That means rebellions and other preferences must still be overcome. That amounts to personal *works* (*Rev. 22:12*). Removal of hindrance and deceit alone is not the "magic button" into instant maturity. It is the determined and active many who will then quickly move ahead.

The world, however, will go from deception to further deception, and the unregenerate will be ripe for the acceptance of Satan and this false prophet. For the revealing of the wicked (one) will be through the working of Satan with great power and signs and lying wonders, and with unlimited seduction to evil and all wicked deception *for them that perish*, because they did not welcome the Truth, but refused to love the Truth that they might be preserved (**II Thess. 2:9-10**). And because they reject Truth which will be demonstrated in reality and power through a purified and anointed Church, God then moves to hasten their complete en-snarement. For this cause, God shall send a strong delusion that they should believe a lie and that they all might be condemned who elect to believe not the Truth, but instead took pleasure in unrighteousness (**II Thess. 2:11-12**).

In speaking of the revealing of the man of sin (2:4), Paul says of him, ***“Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he as God sits down in the temple of God, showing that he himself is God.”*** At the present time, Satan is called the god of this world, or more accurately the god of this age. Satan is now the unseen ruler over the evil (harmful) systems of man’s world. When the time comes for him to manifest in the flesh, he will continue rulership through the instrumentality of the worldwide communist conspiracy, for he will be top man in the Kremlin and will rule with an iron hand. He will continue to subdue nations through fear and terror and revolution, as well as by outright aggression. Knowing, as we all do, of the present Russian emphasis on developing a huge orbiting space station, it seems certain that his secret weapon will be a highly sophisticated space satellite, slowly orbiting the earth, carrying nuclear weapons and also having the capability to direct missiles by remote control toward any target on earth. He will seek to intimidate nations into disarming and then to submit to his rule, under the threat of having their cities destroyed. Take note of Russia’s long-term efforts to negotiate debilitating disarmament in *other* nations.

This man of sin will be aided and abetted by his false prophet, a prophet being one who speaks for another. The descriptive adjective “false” given to this one is from the perspective of Divine Truth and revelation (**Rev. 19:20, 20:10**). However, to the world he will appear as a virtual “Messiah,” a strong leader who will seemingly unite nations in a new world order with prospects (through clever propaganda) of peace and security for all. He will likely be a man of Jewish ancestry, but professing Christianity, represented by the “two horns like a lamb” (**Rev. 13:11**). However, in heart and philosophy he will be in favor of increasingly communizing all member nations of the United Nations World Government which he will head. He will not do this overtly, for he will be a “wolf in sheep’s clothing” (**Matt. 7:15**). He will display much skill at secret government. He deceives them who dwell on earth by means of signs (not miracles) which he is *permitted* to perform (**Rev. 13:14**).

The word miracle here is from the Greek word meaning a *sign*. Although it can indicate the portent of a supernatural work of power, the word is also used to indicate a signal or message of some kind. For example, Judas gave a sign, saying, ***“Whomsoever I shall kiss, that one is He; hold Him fast”*** (**Matt. 26:48**). It is quite evident that Judas did not perform any supernatural feat when he gave the sign, and the Greek word used is the very same as that which is translated “miracle” in **Revelation 13:14** and **19:20**.

The signs which the false prophet will have power to do in the sight (surveillance) of the beast will mostly be feats of scientific achievement. They will be the “sign” behind his great propaganda power to deceive the nations into submitting to the domination of his World Government. This does not mean that the false prophet himself will necessarily be a great scientist, but he will have at his disposal the best scientific brains of the member nations of the World Government which he heads. The same Greek word for “a sign” is translated “wonder” in **Revelation 13:13** where the false prophet, beast #2, does great wonders, so that he makes fire to come down from heaven to the earth in the sight of men. Again the “wonder” is merely the scientific feat of modern atomic weapons being called down, or directed to specific spots on the earth after having been launched into the heavens by missiles.

In this respect, he will work hand in glove with beast #1 (the man of sin) in *coercing* the nations to disarm and submit to the socializing schemes of the World Government planners, under threat of punitive destruction of their key cities. This false prophet will appear at first to be working for the good of all nations by holding out prospects of “peace and security” for all, through international law and order. Although he has “two horns like a lamb,” he seduces the nations into becoming a part of his World Government. Thus he speaks “as a dragon” (**Rev. 13:11**). He will work for the same satanic-inspired system of totalitarian communism which holds sway in the empire of beast #1.

It is recorded that the false prophet says to those who dwell on earth that *they* should make an image to the beast (**Rev. 13:14**). In other words, he directs the nations which are a part of the World Government confederation to increasingly communize their governmental and economic systems to conform to the pattern (image) that prevails in the communist nations. An image is the likeness of something. Through the powerful propaganda media at his disposal, he will use his power to give life to this image and cause it to speak (**Rev. 13:15**). He sets that philosophy before the people of the nations in such a way that it will have a deceptive appeal to them. Subsequently, pressure will be put on those nations which are reluctant to fully pattern their social and economic life to conform to the ideological image of communism. The World Government planners will argue that only through such planned and controlled societies in *all* nations, will civilization be able to survive in a rapidly growing and increasing technological world.

The false prophet, beast #2, causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, and he has power to cause as many as would not worship the *image* of the beast to be killed – or made ineffective (**Rev. 13:12,15**). The word “worship” in these verses does not necessarily indicate a spiritual worship such as is given to a supernatural being like Almighty God. The Greek word means literally “to kiss the hand toward” and, although it is used to indicate spiritual worship of God in many places, it is also used to indicate the obeisance and homage given to a notable person, such as is given to a king by one of his servants (**Matt. 18:26**). There were those who came to Jesus and worshipped Him. They recognized Him as a man sent from God and besought Him to help them, because they were aware of His mighty power. But in such instances they were merely showing great respect and homage, and were not worshipping Him as God, for *at that time* they were not aware of His true identity (**Matt. 9:18, 8:2, 15:25; Jn. 2:23-25**).

The worship, which the false prophet will demand that the nations give to the beast

and to his image, will be an obeisance and an abject servitude generated through fear – not through love or respect. Inadvertently, those nations which bow down or knuckle under to the dictates of the beast and his false prophet will be worshipping *Satan*. The Devil himself, manifesting in human flesh, will head the beast of communism in the Kremlin. Thus it is written that they worshipped the dragon (*Satan*) who gave authority to the beast. Also, they worshipped the beast (the confederacy of nations dominated by *Satan*), saying, “*Who is a match for the beast and who is able to make war with him?*” (*Rev. 13:4*). Many nations will not have the power to resist the increasing encroachments of the beast, and thus they will increasingly submit to and stand in awe of the might of his military power and miraculous achievements in science.

The man of sin in *II Thessalonians 2:4* is pictured doing two things. First, he opposes all that is called God or that is worshipped; he is thoroughly *anti-Christ* and anti-religion (any religion), espousing and promoting the atheistic dogmas of communism. Second, he exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped. He seeks to displace the invisible God (or other spirit) worship with the worship of crass materialism which can *be seen*. It is important to keep this last thought in mind to rightly understand the final statement in *verse 4*. Also keep in mind what has been shown about the worship of the beast in *Revelation 13*. The last part of *verse 4* states that he, as God, sits in the temple of God, showing that he himself is God. He shows himself or sets forth himself as the real (seen) god or ruler and benefactor of this world, with the promise of a world society of peace and security and well-being for all, *if* the nations will but submit and all recognize his supreme authority. Thus he will demand worship in the sense that has been shown. Such worship will be directed toward the beast *system* of communism, with the false prophet working for and demanding its image (likeness) in every nation. Also, the worship will be directed toward the personification of the beast, to its head, the man of sin (*Rev. 13:4,15; II Cor. 4:4*).

The man whom *Satan* takes under his own control, in order that he might physically manifest himself, will have just previously suffered a deadly wound (*Rev. 13:3,12*). The raising up again of this body will seem almost miraculous and, no doubt, the propaganda value of this event will be exploited to the utmost. There will be an aura of invincibility about this man who asserts himself as *the* answer to the world's problems. Thus among many simple-minded ones throughout the world, he could very well become an object of worship in a mystical sense.

Because of his capability and influence, many nations and even apostate religious leaders will court his favor and presence. Their reasons will include that of “not rocking the boat” to their own detriment, and “let’s feather our nest with this man, since it is obvious he holds the destiny of the world in his hands.” Thus it seems likely that, in order to curry his favor and fawn upon him, he will be invited and permitted to appear in various temples (churches and other religious buildings) in important cities of the world (like Rome, Jerusalem, etc.). He will present himself as the *real* and visible god or keeper of this world, thereby fulfilling part of *II Thessalonians 2:4*. His presence in temples supposedly dedicated to worship the true God could also be a *partial* fulfillment of the “*abomination that makes desolate set up or standing in the holy place*” (*Matt. 24:15; Dan. 11:31, 12:11*).

In *Revelation 13:5*, we read that this beast ruler is given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies. We read the same in *Daniel 7:8* where the “little horn” has

eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth speaking great things. This little horn or ruler is seen arising *among* the ten horns or buffer zone nations of the dreadful beast empire, not being one of those rulers, but rising among or alongside them. Here is shown that the end-time Anti-Christ will arise outside of the territorial boundaries of the ancient Roman Empire. If the **Daniel 8:9** little horn also symbolizes this end-time world dictator, he then arises out of one of the four divisions of the ancient Macedonian empire of Alexander the Great, from territory which is now within the former Soviet Union. Regardless of where he actually was born, this man's matured body will eventually be taken over by Satan, who will then manifest as the "*man of sin*" and he will head the beast empire of communism in the Kremlin.

In **Revelation 13:6**, there is the description of this dictator opening his mouth in blasphemy against God, blaspheming His name, and His Tabernacle or dwelling place, and them that dwell in heaven. In the context of **Revelation 12** and **Revelation 14**, it is the Manchild, 144,000 Firstfruits company that is first moved into that dwelling place. Since no communist is willing to admit that there is any God, any heaven, or anyone dwelling there, this verse gives positive evidence that, by the time this dictator receives his investiture of power (for 42 months – **Rev. 13:5**), the Lord will have carried out His secret strategy of bodily removing the 144,000 company of His saints from the earth, commissioning them to return as His delegated representatives six days later. In the face of this staggering event, the beast ruler will no longer be able to deny the existence of God and those who dwell in heaven, but such evidence will not deter his power madness, and he blasphemes them. Likewise in **Daniel 7:25**, it is written that he shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws. Christians who have inadequate preparation for absolute protection and preservation shall be given into his influence until a time and times (two) and the dividing of time (3 1/2 years or 42 months as in **Rev. 13:5**) – to encourage their willingness to complete their preparation.

The selfish determination of this man indwelt by Satan is seen in **Daniel 11:36-38**. This king shall do according to *his* will; he shall exalt *himself* and magnify *himself* above every god; he shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods; he shall succeed or prosper, until the indignation will have been accomplished; for that which is determined in the providence of God shall be done; and he shall magnify *himself* above all. The power of this man indwelt by Satan is seen in the prophetic statement that he will honor the god of forces or modern science, instead of God. His craftiness is shown in **Daniel 8:25**. Through his policy, he will cause trickery to prosper in his hand; he shall magnify *himself* in his heart; in their false sense of peace or security, he will corrupt and destroy many; he shall stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken, and that by no hand.

The man of sin is permitted to make war against the saints and to overcome them (**Rev. 13:7**). The word "saints" means those set apart, and the statement has a dual application. It refers primarily to the regathered nation of Israel in Palestine, for there God has set apart or separated a people from the nations and to Himself for His purpose. The statement also refers to *great persecution* of all Christians within reach (they are the saints of God's spiritual Israel), who will be pursued with vengeance in all communist dominated and influenced countries. Pray that yours will *become* spiritually strong enough to escape that measure of communist influence.

We know from other portions of Scripture that Russia will continue to seek domination of the Middle East, including the land of Palestine, and will eventually feel compelled for the sake of her interests to make war on the Jews in Palestine and invade that land. That coming battle is described in *Ezekiel 38* and *39*. It is indicated in *Revelation 13:7* that the beast ruler will have a very considerable measure of success, until God intervenes, and similarly in *Daniel 7:21* and *8:24*. The same horn made war with the saints and prevailed against them. . .his power shall be mighty – not by his own power, but by that of the indwelling Satan. He shall corrupt and destroy astonishingly, and shall prosper; he shall do his own pleasure, and shall corrupt and destroy both the mighty and the holy people. His initial successes shall be confounded, however, and he shall be defeated on the “mountains of Israel.” Here again is a dual application, for it is to be on the mountains in Palestine, but it is also to be a defeat by and in the *nations* of spiritual Israel, for mountains symbolize nations (*Ezek. 39:4, Rev. 17:9-10*).

The contemporary functioning of the beast empire of communism will be greatly expanded, both by internal revolution in many nations and also by overt aggression. The expansion will be especially active after the Firstfruits are translated and Satan is cast down to earth and into a human body (*Rev. 12:5,9*). The hordes of demons also cast down with him will whip the unregenerate into a frenzied orgy of mass hysteria and fear, unprecedented in human history (*Lk. 21:25-26*). By the time the events of *Revelation 12* come to pass, the beast will be fiery red with rage and ready for war (*Rev. 12:3,12,17*). It is at that time his seven heads are crowned, indicating seven nations wholly sold out to Communism (*Rev. 12:3*). Soon thereafter, his ten horns are also to be crowned, indicating ten other nations then ready to give themselves totally to the cause of the beast (*Rev. 13:1, 17:12-13, 16-17*). Thus the integrated beast empire will then be made up of seventeen nations giving all of their strength and power to the prince from the pit. Yet other nations will be roped into the same system through the deceptions and seductions of the false prophet and by his World Government *coercions*. Still others will be taken by internal revolution or by revolution and external aggression combined.

There is a further way in which the man of sin shows himself that he is the god of the objective world. He will demonstrate and reinforce his claim in the sight of all nations. Paul wrote that he, as God, sits in the temple of God, showing that he himself is God (*II Thess. 2:4*). The Greek word translated “temple” here means a dwelling place or inner sanctuary. In these years of phenomenal scientific achievement and “signs” in the space age, what kind of a temple might we expect the man of sin to sit in while he dictates to the inhabitants of the earth and proclaims himself to be the only real god of the earth? *Isaiah* prophesies against him, “*How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who did weaken the nations* (through disarmament agreements and civil conflict)! *For you said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the assembly in the sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High Mountain. Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the sides of the pit. They who see you will closely look at you and consider you, saying, Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who opened not the house of his prisoners?*”

Let us not limit the Holy One of Israel (*Ps. 78:41*) by assuming that this Scripture refers only to Lucifer’s original self-exaltation, rebellion and fall. It also portrays his



There is another prophetic portrayal of Lucifer in *Ezekiel 28*, where the King of Tyre becomes a type of his Satanic Majesty. Originally, he was full of wisdom, perfect in beauty and blameless in his ways, until vanity of heart caused his fall (*Ezek. 28:12-17*). Here also is described his eventual manifestation as a *man* and his ignoble defeat. *"They shall bring you down to the pit and you shall die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas. Will you still say before him that slays you, I am God? But you shall be only a man, and no God, in the hand of him that slays you.... You have defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the unrighteousness of your trade. Therefore, will I bring forth a fire from the midst of you, and it shall consume you and I will bring you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of them who looked at you"* (*Ezek. 28:8-9,18*).

Here is the *man* of sin being slain by God ending his reign as the pseudo-god of this world. The wording indicates that a fire will ignite or be ignited in the space station throne in the heavens. It could be hit by a Shuttle-type space missile or satellite killer, or through an error aboard the craft. The huge space station will then hurtle to the ground, being brought "down to the pit" (the world below). The man of sin will die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas (the craft likely falling into a body of water). But as it strikes, his body will be thrown out instead of being sealed within, or cremated. It is written, *"You are cast out or away from your tomb* (or craft of entombment) *like an abominable branch"* (*Isa. 14:19*). It is also written, *"I will cast you to the ground, I will lay you before kings, that they may look at you"* (*Ezek. 28:17*). Rulers will travel from far and near to view the devil's carcass. And then God says of him, *"They who see you shall closely look at you and consider you, saying, Is this the man who made the earth tremble"* (*Isa. 14:16-17*)?

In preparation for the showdown battle, the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies are to be gathered together to make war against Jesus Christ, Who is seated on a white horse (symbol of power to make war, but from pure motivation) and against His army (*Rev. 19:19*). On earth, His army is made up of Christendom's nations (likely led by the U.S.A.) and people who will refuse to submit to the dictates of the beast, in spite of having previously gone along with the false prophet and his World Government for a time. By their refusal to submit, a mighty conflict will result, which is the battle of the Great Day of God Almighty, or the battle of the Day of the Great God Almighty (*Rev. 16:14*), the phenomenon of the beast making war against the Lamb (*Rev. 17:13-14*).

Of course, there are also the great armies of glorified saints and angels in the heavens which will return with the Lord as He comes at the *climax* of the battle, in order to terminate it (*Rev. 19:11-16*). But there is no possible way in which physical, earthly armies can organize to fight armies of heavenly beings. It would be as ridiculous as postulating that a school of fish in the ocean could rise up and do battle with a flock of geese flying overhead. They are of different spheres. Jesus also declared that Saul who became Paul had been fighting against Him, a heavenly Being, because Saul was a man of flesh and blood persecuting flesh and blood Christians on earth. Therefore, when the beast is fighting against Christendom's nations which will have chosen to take their stand with the Lord God Almighty, rather than sell out to Satan, he will be fighting against the Lord, even though it will be a battle between physical, earthly armies.

However, in an all-out conflict of nuclear superpowers, any decisive victory on either side would be impossible. It will need the personal intervention of the Lord in His

power and great glory to terminate such a death struggle – lest *all flesh* would be destroyed (**Matt. 24:22**). But note that it is the Lamb that overcomes the beast nations (**Rev. 17:14**). Since Jesus does not return to the earth as a Lamb, these words must indicate His supernatural aid to the Christian nations *during* the battle *before* He returns bodily. His personal return is as King of kings and Lord of lords, for the purpose of treading the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God (**Rev. 19:15-16**). He is to be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels (messengers) in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God *and* on them that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (**II Thess. 1:7-8**).

Paul states that not long after the lawless one (Satan) is revealed as the *man* of sin, the Lord will consume him with the Spirit of His mouth and destroy him with the brightness of His coming (**II Thess. 2:8**). Regardless of the circumstances or the instrumentality used by the Lord, this verse shows that the Lord will personally take charge of the final and complete destruction of the man of sin, in connection with the revealing of Jesus Christ from heaven in flaming fire. But remember, there can be more than one application or fulfillment to most Scriptures. The word “coming” here is from the Greek word *parousia*, which means an approach or coming alongside.

When Jesus comes as a thief to catch away His Bride (**Matt. 24:43; Rev. 3:3, 16:15**), He will not openly reveal Himself, not at that time. He will remain alongside in the earth’s atmosphere to direct the manifestation or appearing of the glorified sons who make up His Bride company, the Manchild group, the Firstfruits (**Rev. 12:5, 14:4**). The effects of His *parousia*, His being alongside, during the 3 ½ years of Great Tribulation will be seen in the release of the greatest spiritual power ever yet manifested by His Church on earth. Thus, even though the lawless one’s power is not finally and completely removed until Jesus is literally revealed in power and glory at the close of the Tribulation, there will be a spiritual application of the words of **II Thessalonians 2:8** *during* the Tribulation period.

The “Spirit of His mouth” is the Spirit-anointed Word of Truth which will be preached in power at that time, causing the satanic hold over many people to be “consumed.” Also, the “brightness of His presence” will be manifested in the glory of His Church (**Isa. 60:1-3**). This will have such an impact upon the world that multitudes will come to the Light to receive deliverance. Satan’s power shall be destroyed in their lives. God has planned and arranged that the very peak of the Devil’s power in the earth through his beast empire is to be outmatched by the higher peak of Christ’s far greater power in His Church. This will be the time of His revelation or appearance through His spiritual Body, *before* His revelation or appearance in His personal glorified body in the heavenlies. It will be the very brightness of His *parousia* or alongside presence, and the resultant power in His people, that will be the means of thwarting Satan’s attempt to gain complete dominion over all nations and peoples of the earth. It will be His Spirit-anointed Word which will provide the strategy for winning World War III.

Shall we look again and not miss out by limiting the Holy One of Israel? It is wonderful to have the Lord reveal what is coming, but we are living in the *now*. Surely there must be an application of **II Thessalonians 2:8** for the present moment. Did not Christ say that He would come and be present with us always, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit whom He would send (**Jn. 14:18,23,28, 15:26, 16:7,13**)? Therefore from one perspective, His coming in power was on that day of Pentecost and His *parousia*



or alongside presence is with us now and to the end of the age (*Matt. 28:20, Heb. 13:5*). But again, the seeing of this particular “now” application does not eliminate the more intensive and specific future fulfillments already presented.

Let’s assume you are a Christian who has been “born anew” and has received the very life seed of Christ within (*Jn. 3:3, 1 Pet. 1:23*). You have that nucleus of righteousness within which *draws* you to Him and causes you to *desire* to please Him and always do what is right in His sight. Yet you are also aware that there is a “mystery of iniquity” (the sin-nature or carnal mind), which Paul called “the flesh” (*II Thess. 2:7, Rom. 8:5-9, Gal. 5:16-21*). Satan, the hinderer, takes advantage of this fallen Adamic desire or self nature, and keeps you from living the victorious Christian life as you really want. In *Romans 7*, Paul relates his struggle with his own “flesh” while under the Law. He very much wanted to serve God and live according to His Holy Law. But in trying to do so, he discovered another law within himself which he calls the law of sin (*Rom. 7:12, 23*). In the “flesh,” this law of sin pulled him toward doing what he did not want to do (*Rom. 7:15-17*). He concludes that one of the very purposes for which the Law was given was to show up and expose the carnal sin nature, through demonstrating the inability of fallen man, sold under sin, to fulfill a righteous and holy Law (*Rom. 7:12-14, 18*). The will or desire to live right was present within, yet in the flesh and under the Law, he could not find how to perform the good (*Rom. 7:21-22*). You can understand then, from the perspective of individual application, how that “man of sin” or “lawless one” within Paul was revealed.

Many Christians have used *Romans 7* to substantiate their understanding that all Christians are caught in a no-win constant warfare on earth. They fail to see that Paul was describing his experience under the Law, but *not* as a mature Christian. In Christ, he found deliverance from this condition (*Rom. 7:24-25*). The Law of the Spirit of Life, in Christ Jesus, made him free, totally free, from the law of sin and death (*Rom. 8:2*). He was made free from both the law of death (because of sin) and from the law of sin that had been warring in his members and causing him to do the evil (worthless things) he did not wish to do. In spite of God’s provision for this freedom, most Christians do continue to have problems with “the flesh” as expressed in *Romans 7*, but not all Christians do! The reason for this, with most Christians, is that they have known neither the fullness of truth, nor the fullness of the provision which Christ has made for complete deliverance.

Jesus said, “*If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed*” (*Jn. 8:36*). He did not say half free and half slave, or even part slave to the old man of sin. Paul said that the old man of sin was already crucified *with* Christ, and *with* Christ is dead – all dead (*Rom. 6*). So why do we not see the evidence?

There are many phrases and words from the Bible which have become Church jargon, almost unnoticed. Surprisingly few people associate all the same thoughts with those words as were in the mind of the author. “The flesh” and “carnal nature” and the “law of sin” may well fit into that category. Review in your mind what you know about your experiences. Now try to relate, in different words, what is this “flesh” or “carnal nature” which builds the “law of sin.” Is all of it not grounded in *habits* of gratifying or serving self for the immediate experience, strengthened by incessant repetition? Does not living in God’s plan for life involve killing off old habits, while being helped by the description of a new and constructive life-style and by the powerful drawing of the Spirit of Christ in His Life-seed?

end-time manifestation in human flesh as *a man*, as is shown in *verse 16* by the question, ***“Is this the man who made the earth tremble”*** (*Isa. 14:12-17*)? As a man, the man of sin, Satan says, ***“I will ascend into heaven,” “I will exalt my throne,” “I will sit,”*** etc.

Here is the key to the temple (the dwelling place or inner sanctuary) where as Paul wrote, he will *sit* proclaiming himself as the god of this world (*II Thess. 2:4*). Russia will have built a gigantic space platform or space station in orbit, an earth satellite carrying a crew of picked scientists *and* the head of the Kremlin (Lucifer in person). Thus he will ascend above the heights of the clouds saying, ***“I will be like the Most High”*** (*Isa. 14:14*). From this dwelling place (temple) and seat of power he will seek to dictate to the nations as a god in the heavens, like the Most High. Scripture speaks of the heavens as a tabernacle for the sun (*Ps. 19:1-5*), and Satan shall ascend and sit in the tabernacle of God’s heavens in his space station. He will “exalt his throne above the stars of God,” by making it so luminescent and large that it will be visible to the naked eye in the daylight (Lucifer, son of the morning, can also be rendered “day star”). ***“I will sit also upon the mount of the assembly*** (in ruling authority) ***in the sides of the north.”*** This indicates that he will dictate to the United Nations assembly situated in the northern hemisphere. That assembly will be told what to do, and the false prophet who will head that confederacy of nations will seek to implement and enforce his demands.

It is probable that Satan in human flesh will also try to appeal directly to the masses within the nations by beaming radio and TV broadcasts from his throne in the heavens, urging them to revolt against their leaders, refuse to take up arms, and join him in demanding general disarmament for the peace and security of all. Thus he will seek to further weaken nations as a prelude to complete takeover (*Isa. 14:12*). The Russians are well on their way toward having all the equipment necessary for this orbiting space station to carry a staff of some twelve scientists. Obviously, the USA is the primary target for subversion so the world can be taken over. When orbiting in place, the Russians will be able to and eventually will carry out mass destruction of American cities. Their goal is total subjection of the people to the Kremlin. Our people should be conditioned to understand what is taking place. But who is working to awaken the people? Who is instructing the children? Who is preparing our land?

Not all nations will submit, however, even though he will seek to terrorize them into submission by destroying some of their cities (*Isa. 14:17, Rev. 13:13*). The result, in time, will be “Armageddon,” and all-out conflict between the beast powers and those Christian nations which refuse to submit to his total rule (*Rev. 16:16*). The failure of the man of sin to obtain total dominion over the earth is prophesied in *Revelation 13:8*. ***“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, all whose names are not written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the casting down of humanity.”*** Those whose names *are* written in the Book of Life will *not* worship him.

The end-time Pentecostal outpouring and revival will be taking place during this time, as never before in human history, and nations as well as individuals will be greatly affected by this spiritual outpouring. In the final reckoning, the awakened nations will choose to die fighting, rather than submit to the Prince from Hell. They will realize that those who yield in obedience to the beast or worship his image (inaugurate or establish the communist system in their own land) will have their lot appointed with Lucifer and his angels in the Lake of Fire (*Rev. 19:20*).

That which the Word of God declares was true, continues to be true, and will continue to be true. But the truth must be so realized in our experience that the seed of Christ might be seen fully matured or formed and revealed in us (*Gal. 4:19, 1:16*). This realization does not come, however, by a striving in our own efforts apart from Christ or His plan to love the “crucified life,” nor by a constant struggle to put down the old carnal nature. It is the Son Who sets free by His Word and by His Spirit, and this is just what *II Thessalonians 2:8* relates. The lawless one, the sin nature, is first to be revealed or exposed in and to us. Then in the process of battle, it shall be “consumed” with the Spirit of His “mouth” (the Word in application) and destroyed “with the brightness of His coming” (the fiery presence of His Spirit). This is why all born-anew Christians are called to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and Fire (*Matt. 3:11*).

Read all of *Matthew 3:8-12*, in which John the Baptist tells about the need for and source of Holy Spirit Baptism and Fire. Initially, he declares the need for repentance; then he exposes the presumption of man’s fleshly pride; and then he discloses that the ax is laid at the *root* of every tree which does not bring forth good fruit – so that it might be hewn down *and* cast into the fire. The fruit is not primarily external good works; the fruit is the internal fruit – worthless if it is of the “flesh,” worthy if it is of the Spirit. But what is the well-rooted *tree* which does not – and cannot (*Matt. 7:18*) – bring forth good fruit? It is the carnal sin nature, human nature, which leads us in all that we do outside of the Lord Jesus Christ’s plan for man. It is that sin nature which is rooted deep within the soul of every member of Adam’s fallen race.

God’s method of dealing with it is not to patch it up or try to reform it or go around it. His plan is to eliminate it. The ax laid at the root of this tree within is the Word of the Cross – the truth that we *have been* crucified with Christ, that He has already arranged for complete deliverance from lawlessness. But that is only part of the picture. John also related that the hewn tree is to be cast into the fire for consuming.

Here is the symbolic picture of the sin nature being destroyed, in effect, by being introduced into the total immersion (baptism) of the Holy Spirit and exposed to the resultant burning away of dross by Fire. This initiation into the consuming by Fire, and then the maintenance of the purity attained in the Fire, is the only way God has provided for setting anyone free from the inclination or the compulsion which precipitates into sin. This alone is the circumcision made without hands on the inner man, an inner application of the circumcision symbol of righteousness (*Col. 2:11, Rom. 4:11*), an instantaneous burning away of the “flesh” (*Lev. 9:24*).

In the Old Testament times, *blood* was sprinkled upon the Altar for the atonement or forgiveness of sins (*Lev. 17:11*). If forgiveness of sins was all that was in the mind of God when He established His pattern in type for the new era, why was it that the dead *carcass* of the slain sacrifice was burned with fire on the Altar? If we think for a moment, it becomes clear. The burning was to show, by way of type, that God purposed to deal with the sin nature, the human nature, the *root* or cause of sin – not to deal over and over and over with just the sin which is the fruit of the root and tree. The carcass was a type of the lower animalistic or beastly nature which God has ordained to be consumed with His Fire.

But only those fully instructed in what God has provided, and who are ready to place *all* on the Altar, looking to the Lord with an absolute faith in the finished work of Christ for their liberation, can reap the full benefit of the Fiery Spirit Baptism. Even

today, most who think they have received the Holy Spirit Baptism have missed the show. They might have obtained their ticket for coming in, but through lack of initiative or not knowing, they have *not* yet entered where the action is. They have not begun to experientially know the utter freedom of the burning away of self-life, the lawless one.

However, much of the substance of what has been missed can still be gained by receiving a full understanding and, through consecration and faith, laying all upon the Altar with recognition that only the Fire of His Spirit can burn to the core of our being and remove our carnal self-life within.

We see that the primary subject of *II Thessalonians 2* is the revealing or coming of Jesus Christ. But because of the mystery of iniquity working within the Church and causing a great apostasy (falling away), His revealing (unveiling) has been delayed. The terrible apostasy of the Church has set the stage for the revealing of the man of sin who will exalt himself as the god of this world. But God's purpose cannot be frustrated or defeated. A Spirit-powered Glorious Church is soon to come forth right in the midst of the Devil's reign. Christ is going to be revealed *in His People* for all the world to see.

John saw the glorified Christ in the midst of the seven lampstands (*Rev. 1:13*). The seven *golden* lampstands are a type of what is to become the Glorious Church (*Rev. 1:20*). The revealing of Christ *from heaven* in flaming fire (*II Thess. 1:7-8*) and with power and great glory (*Matt. 24:30*) cannot take place, until Christ has first been revealed in His Spiritual Body which is the fullness of Him Who fills in all (*Eph. 1:23*). Already the Lord is preparing a Manchild Firstfruits as a forerunner to this coming Glorious Church, not having a spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but holy and without blemish (*Eph. 5:27*). Through budding apostles and prophets, whom the Lord is now raising up, the way is being prepared for the complete removal of Satan's hindering tactics from the midst of the saints. Satan's hindering has developed through the mystery of iniquity which has corrupted the truth of God, divided the Church and hamstrung it in its ministry.

The Spirit of God is now moving to do a work of preparation among those who have ears to hear and hearts to receive. Through the truth now being revealed, Satan's iniquity in secret is being increasingly exposed, and many saints are even now submitting to the Lord's headship over His Church. What is now just a sparse few, however, will become a mighty host when Satan, as the hinderer, is taken out from their midst in actual effect, and the true Church begins to reveal the Christ of God in reality and in power.

First however, Satan himself is to move into full control of a grown human body, after that body is wounded to death. The human spirit may have departed or be near to departure, but that man revives again. Sometime between life and death and life again, Satan moves in alongside his spirit and assumes control of the soul, mind and body. Satan himself is not one of the historical seven rulers, though the human spirit of the man is. That man has been born as any other man, beginning as a baby, although his spirit has lived previously in a physical body as the seventh of the previous rulers, who lived and died during the era of the Holy Roman Empire. After his death, his spirit and soul spent the required time in Hades. But the spirit which has been in Hades has, before now, reincarnated in an unborn fetus and has been born as a new babe. At present, he must be a grown, mature man, living on earth, now ready to head up the beast *empire* of communism.

## Historical Beast Empires

(Heads which are Hills  
– seven total)

**#6a.** Pagan Roman Empire

**#6b.** Extension of the Roman Empire into the Holy Roman Empire and the Christian Era (including all of Christendom – today).

**#6c.** The consummating extension of the Roman Empire from the “Christian” through the eastern leg of the Holy Roman Empire into that of communism (Russia).

**#7.** A communist dominated world empire. This seven-headed empire is later to contain the ten horns (*Rev. 13:1*), ten nations which will become an integral part of the communist empire, during the 42 months of Great Tribulation.

## Historical Beast Rulers

(Heads which are Kings  
– eight total)

**#6.** One of the pagan Roman Empire rulers (the one still reigning in 98 A.D.)

**#7.** A ruler who lived many hundred years ago, perhaps at the height of the Holy Roman Empire, the hereditary extension of pagan Rome into “Christian” Rome. (This seventh ruler corresponds to the “7” of the Church Age).

**#8.** When Satan is cast down to earth at the start of The Great Tribulation (*Rev. 12:9*), he will take over and likely inhabit the human body of an individual who is dying or has just died, whose human spirit is leaving or has just left the body and then returns (one of the top chiefs in the Kremlin). Satan will cause this man, who had been wounded to death and then dominated by Satan himself, to become *the* ruler of world communism, the first beast of *Revelation 13:1*. He will rule the consummating phase of the historical head which is hill #7 and will be the real power behind the false prophet’s beast confederacy. Satan becomes #8 ruler by taking over the matured human body of a Kremlin ruler which also clothes the human spirit of the #7 ruler re-incarnated in a new body.

### **The False Prophet's Beast System**

Alongside the #7 Empire is a helper organism, a socialist world government (likely an outgrowth from the U.N.) which is a *front* for the consummating phase of the #7 empire. This socialistic world power is contemporary with the #7 world power, and, in its socialist nation confederacy, it also contains the same seven heads and ten horns as the #7 empire (*Rev. 17:13*).

### **The Final Beast Ruler**

This eighth ruler has his generation in the previous seven rulers, having lived before. His human spirit, which already spent about 1600 years in Hades has ascended out of the abyss, reincarnated in a human fetus, and has been born as a babe. He is at present a grown man who is now to head up the world government and expand, with the help of the false prophet, the second beast of *Revelation 13:11*, the lamb like a dragon. The eighth ruler's human spirit has lived previously in a physical body as the #7 ruler. But Satan himself, as the real controlling #8 ruler, is the real power within this #7 empire, the world government of communism. John saw him as the one yet to come and who remains but a short time (*Rev. 17:10*), being the reincarnated #7 ruler who identifies with #8 when indwelt by Satan himself.



Each of the *Revelation 17:9-10 historical* seven beast empires had one of its several rulers who was a symbol for the beast leadership of that empire. There was one for Egypt, one for Assyria, one for Babylonia, one for Medo-Persia, one for Greece and one for pagan Rome; six historical beast empires and six historical beast rulers.

**:12-13** When the 144,000 Firstfruits are taken from the Church, it will be evident to communist rulers (led by Satan in human flesh) that they must speedily take dominion over the earthly realm (*Rev. 12:12*). Therefore, the campaign will intensify to unify all portions of communist expression and take over the balance of the earth's nations. This earnest consolidation will require about 21 months. It is then that the sea beast is seen in its maturity, its ten horns being crowned with authority (*Rev. 13:1*). When the ten rulers and nations enter into their agreement with the seven head rulers and nations, the "one hour" with the beast begins (*Rev. 17:12*).

Unless we associate this single hour with the prophetic measure given in the 12 hour work day of Jesus, covering the 21 years from age 12 to age 33, it gives us no useful information. Therefore, the "one hour" becomes  $\frac{1}{12}$  of the 21 years, which is 21 months. The flames of war will already have been licking long before the final 21 months of The Great Tribulation, but then the seventeen nation confederation will undertake a concerted and all-out drive in a war to exterminate Israel and to take over or eliminate Christendom. Brush fire wars and minor but serious wars will continue and increase. Then begins the mad drive to quickly destroy Israel and progressively subjugate Christendom. The land-based operations will continue unabated until the Day of Atonement of the following year. On this day will be the greatest bloodbath in history. The Christian nations will be given a spectacular victory in this symbolic Battle of Armageddon (*Rev. 19:17-18*), resulting from their implementing strategy given by the Lord (the Lamb shall triumph over them – *Rev. 17:14*). Land operations cease, but aerial war continues with use of the largest nuclear weapons until near sunset initiating the Day of Tabernacles in late September or early October. All World War III operations will be terminated by Jesus Christ, God Almighty, lest *all* flesh on earth should be killed by the then pervading nuclear radiation poisons (*Matt. 24:22*). In *Revelation 17:12*, the Lord specified a precise hour, during which the beast's head *and* horn empire will join military forces and wage war on Christendom. The 21 months of global World War III begin on January 1-2, and terminate 21 months later on the Day of Tabernacles, with the Lord's physical return to smother the flames.

**:14** The Lord Jesus Himself said, "*Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, My brethren, you have done it to Me.*" The seventeen-nation confederacy takes up its campaign of eradicating the Lamb from earth by incapacitating and killing off saints wherever it can reach. As an integrated part of the Russian beast empire, and under orders of the rulers in the Kremlin, the seventeen nations will carry on ruthless warfare against the faithful in the body of Christians, against the nominal Church (the harlot), and against Christian nations which have again started to turn to Christ.

At the time of *verse 14*, the Lord will not have bodily returned to earth, and there will yet be 21 more months until He does so – with His glorified saints. The term "lamb" here cannot and does not refer to Jesus Christ, but to those who have or are accepting His sacrifice on Calvary. It cannot refer to Jesus Christ. When He does return, He returns as the Lion of the tribe of Judah in flaming fire, taking vengeance on all who have refused to know God *and* on all who have decided not to conform to the Gospel of

our Lord Jesus Christ (*Rev. 5:5, 19:15-16; II Thess. 1:7-8*). At the greatest intensity of the fire of the final battle, the Lord Jesus will personally intervene, on the Day of Atonement (the day of the offering of blood), His own secret strategy being implemented by the Christian nations. The land battle will be over; only sporadic and dying outbursts will continue here and there. Although increasingly intense aerial warfare continues, it too will be terminated – four days later, on the Day of the Festival of Tabernacles, when Christ's feet touch the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. In His descent, He will be the Head of a procession of all His glorified saints – those who have been chosen and sealed – in a spectacular display of light and power (*Col. 3:4, Zech. 14:5, Rev. 3:12*). The Mount of Olives will violently split at the touch of His feet. Every oppressor will have been destroyed (*Isa. 13:9, Acts 3:23*).

**: 16-17** For many, it is difficult and unpalatable to accept the verdict from Jesus Christ that the once faithful, though infantile Church, has matured into a harlot and has mothered daughters in her likeness. Yet there are pages upon pages of Scripture which describe the process and the result attained by the Church as she entered and grew into harlotry. From the Bible, there can be no question at all that this harlot is the perverted faith of the man-organized church – even though there are the few faithful in Christendom who do give birth to the Manchild company which becomes the Firstfruits to God. Even a fragmentary knowledge of Church history, both Catholic and Protestant, substantiates the harlot nature of the woman which is featured in the Church's teachings. It is no secret, except to the brainwashed.

Then the daughter harlots conceived and bore their own harlot daughters in offshoot sects, cults and “nondenominational” bodies. Therefore, God has put it into the hearts of the seventeen-nations confederacy to carry out *His* purpose by agreeing to hate the harlot, bereave her and eat up her substance and consume her with fire. God is not unrighteous! He motivates them to destroy all of the subverted Church within reach. So we should understand that it is a sinful church function that He wants removed.

Careful discernment is absolutely necessary for Christians today. It is necessary in order that we may come out from the harlot's philosophies and doctrines and traditions – all man formulated – lest we partake of her sins in adultery (*Rev. 18:4*). It is a specific application to those in the Roman Catholic Church, in only slightly lesser degree to those of the Eastern branch (for it has previously been taken within the beast empire), and to those of the modernistic Protestant bodies. Yet after severe trials, there will be a regeneration and cleansing and reemergence in Spirit-power of the seven main organized Church bodies, to be led by the Roman Catholics (*Isa. 30:25-26*).

If the warning is to be heard where it ought to be heard, you *who understand* should speak out fearlessly and clearly, or become guilty before God through failure to discharge a trust (*Ezek. 33:1-7*). The blind and deluded will liberally accuse you of hatred and bigotry. Those in responsible positions within the harlot body will hate, persecute and want to kill you. Even that is not to disturb you. He who turns back is not fit for the Kingdom, but he who makes his dwelling in the covered or hiding place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty (*Ps. 91:1*).

**: 18** In many places we are told that the things on earth appearing so real to us are but shadows or replicas of actual realities in the spirit realm (*Heb. 9:23*). The wilderness Tabernacle laid out by Moses was a copy of an actual design in the spirit world. John also saw the original (*Rev. 15:5*). The earthly is a temporary tool to picture the

spiritual reality. Jesus defined the pattern in the “Lord’s Prayer” – may it become on earth as it *is* in the heavenlies (*Matt. 6:10*). Previously, we have commented on this pattern in application to the things of God, but the pattern is equally accurate in application to the spirit realm in rebellion against God’s plan.

Satan received his training in reasoning and organization from the Source of Wisdom, although he did not finish his course (*Ezek. 28:12-15*). The original Babylon the Great, the great city which is the unfaithful woman, is a spiritual city in the spirit realm. Through the historical past, its pattern in replication on earth has been shifted from place to place, as best fitted the implementing of Satan’s hindering tactics. In the days during which John lived, the earthly counterpart was pagan Rome. After Constantine, “Christian” Rome succeeded pagan Rome. That was soon followed by the Vatican. Today it still remains at the Vatican, carrying great influence even in many lands we think of as Protestant. Nations great and small appoint “ambassadors” to the Vatican. Presidents and other Heads of State go there to show respect for the Pontiff. It should be abundantly clear that none but the unfaithful and falsified teachings of the Church now headed by the Vatican can possibly be pictured on earth by the woman in *Revelation 17* and *18*.

The ten kingdoms are also pictured in *Daniel 2* and *7*. They have the instability on which communism feeds, partly weak and partly strong (*Dan. 2:42-43*). The feet of the image in *Daniel 2* are partly clay, symbolizing the advance of human knowledge in the end-time and also the advance of humanism (the elevating of man and the ousting of God through the increase of science, technology, learning, etc.). These advances create a fertile field for ensnarement into the humanistic, God-denying theories of socialism and communism. The fourth beast of *Daniel 7:19* (the sixth head of *Rev. 17:9*) had teeth of iron and nails (feet) of brass, and Daniel relates brass with the Grecian empire (*Dan. 2:39*) which is usually associated with the advancement in learning and philosophy.

In this “prepared field” of the world, the Russian beast’s ruler of world communism (first beast of *Rev. 13:1*) rises among (not out of) the ten kings. From among the ten will come this ruler who will subdue three of the ten rulers and who will speak great things and will appear greater than the others (*Dan. 7:8,20,21,24*). This later ruler will contend against the people who have been separated from others, primarily the people in modern Israel, and prevail (*Dan. 7:21, Rev. 13:7*). He also dominates the false prophet who is to lead the world socialist confederation of nations soon to evolve out of the United Nations Organization. This later ruler will think to change the Festival days and the law. The set-apart people, a people chosen by the Lord, will be given into his hand during 3 ½ years (*Dan. 7:25*).

He will rise out of a nation which was in one of the four portions of Alexander the Great’s Empire. He will stop the “continual” (probably the daily worship at the Wailing Wall) and will profane God’s Sanctuary, one or more buildings for worship of God in Jerusalem, Rome and elsewhere (*Matt. 24:15*). Possibly there will also be a profaning of the Holy Place by the establishment of an Israeli communist government, or by situating the United Nations world government, or a portion of it such as the World Court, within Jerusalem (*Dan. 8:9-11*). He will know how to catch many in his consummate trickery and craftiness, and he will deceive and destroy through promises of peace and security. Before him, overwhelming forces of opposing armies will be swept away.

He will come or *go up* and there he will become strong with a small people, as with twelve or so scientists in a huge satellite space platform (**Dan. 11:22-23**). His armed forces will appear in the Holy Land and other “holy” places and pollute the “sanctuary.” His armed forces will set him up as or in the “abomination which makes desolate,” which term includes an orbiting space station (**Dan. 11:31**). He will exalt himself above every god and will speak astonishing things against the God of gods (**Dan. 11:36, II Thess. 2:4**). He will give glory and honor to men who acknowledge him and cause them to rule over many (a communist dominated world government). He will divide or apportion the land of Palestine (to the Arabs) for a price (their oil) (**Dan. 11:39, Joel 3:2**).

## Hindering Babylon

### REVELATION 18

**Chapter 18** is a further expansion of what is Babylon and gives a more detailed description of her political and financial accomplishments. Her character and her works suit her only for destruction. While **Revelation 17** highlighted the religious nature of Babylon, **Revelation 18** deals with the political and commercial aspects of that great "city" which symbolizes the workings of the world that man has built up around him. The rise of physical Babylon took place over many centuries after the flood of Noah. It was first reestablished by Nimrod (**Gen. 10:10**), son of Cush who was the grandson of Noah through the line of Ham. Nimrod (*we will revolt*) was also known as Ninus (*the son*) and he became mighty on the earth while Noah's son, Shem was still alive. The beginning of Nimrod's kingdom was Babylon.

Another name for his father, Cush (*black*), was Belus or Bel (*the confounder*). Both Nimrod and Cush were instrumental in bringing about a great apostasy and a great confusing of the truth. Being the ringleader, Cush was also the first to whom was given the name Merodach (*the Great Rebel*). Jeremiah speaks of Bel being put to shame and Merodach being broken down (**Jer. 50:2**). As Bel, he confounded the whole world and so he is put to shame. Since Merodach's rebellion had broken the then united world in pieces, he himself was broken down. The method used to provoke rebellion in the world of that day was by proclaiming a release or liberty from the specific way of life for man which God had made known and which was carried into the postdiluvian world by Noah. It was the same Satan-inspired message of liberalism that has always appealed to human nature – "it is not necessary to conform to all that you have been told." The ringleaders became the liberal interpreters of "God's will" for the people.

Initially all the rebelling had to be carried on in secret so those remaining loyal to God's Word would not rise up to throttle the liberal trend, for the knowledge of God was still fresh in the minds of men. There were Shem and others with whom to contend, and the power of God was with them. The mystery of secret lawlessness began to creep in within that period of great spiritual light as again it later encroached upon the First Century Church in the period of greater light being offered by the Apostles (**II Thess. 2:7**). Those spreading the "other approach to right living" were looked upon by many as saviors who released people from God's "despotic" bondage, God was still permitted to remain in the picture, but He was in the picture only intellectually; He was not to remain active. Other gods were placed between Him and the people.

Dark-skinned Nimrod (from the line of Ham), with his fair-skinned and beauti-

ful queen, Semiramis, ruled in the capitol city of Babylon. There they developed the liberal but secret religion after the pattern of the antediluvian practices, until there came a confrontation with Shem and other uncorrupted men. Nimrod came forward with his religion a little too early and was put to death by the sword as a warning to all. Semiramis, as queen, continued to sponsor the new religion under the wraps of secrecy, and took for herself the position that had been occupied by Nimrod. By her arranging, Nimrod became deified, her son Tammuz became the deified reincarnation of Nimrod and she herself became the "great Mother of Gods." This idolatry and its practices, long before the birth of Christ, spread into all the nations and tribes of the world, through Europe, from India up through Tibet, China and Japan, and through the Americas (*Jer. 51:7*). The madonna and child worship, the queen of heaven worship, a set-apart priesthood, secrecy in ritual, systems of merit by penance, immersion baptism, etc. long have been a part of all major religions.

Semiramis was a paragon of unbridled lust and licentiousness, and the city where she reigned became known among nations as the grand seat of both idolatry and consecrated prostitution. Because patriarchal faith was still fresh in the minds of men, it was hazardous to all at once publicly set up a system such as she inaugurated. Idolatry of any form was severely punished even much later as in Job's day (*Job 31:26-28*). Therefore by necessity, if idolatry was to be brought in, especially such foul idolatry as that in the Babylonian system, it had to be brought in by stealth and in secret so the uncorrupted men could not put it down. The object was to bind all mankind to blind and absolute submission to a hierarchy entirely dependent on the sovereigns of Babylon.

The method of implementation called for all knowledge, sacred and profane, to be monopolized by a priesthood which dealt it out to those initiated into the "mysteries" exactly as it saw fit – as the interests of that system of spiritual despotism seemed to require. The people that became a part of the system were bound to the priests, and were told only that blind and implicit submission to them could result in salvation. Symbolism refers to the golden cup of Babylon, and the secrecy surrounding that system required the drinking of mysterious beverages from the cup. These beverages were compounded to be intoxicating, and were used with the objective of bringing aspirants to the order under their power, dimming the understanding and freeing the emotions and passions so they would be prepared to accept what they would see and hear. Babylon persistently remained the holy city and religious capital of Asia, until conquered by the Persians in 538 B.C.

When Cyrus, whom God chose as His instrument long before he was born (*Isa. 45:1*), overran Babylon, its priests were forced out. Some of them went into Asia minor, settling in Pergamos which then became Satan's seat (*Rev. 2:13*). From Pergamos, Atallus III in 133 B.C. bequeathed all his dominion, including the power and function of the legitimate Babylonian Pontiff, to the Roman Chief of State. There were already schools in this Babylonian religion near Rome and the practice flourished. Later, in 378 A.D., the power and function of the Pontiff were assigned to the Bishop of Rome.

Along with the persistent development and spread of the religious Babylon, there was also an accompaniment of the exploitation and development of early political



and commercial Babylon, which became the largest, most wealthy and most powerful city in the world of that day. Babylon had a well-developed culture in art, literature, etc.; it had libraries, and it had far reaching capabilities in mathematics, science and engineering. One of the many images in that city was a 40-foot high, 50,000 pound casting of pure gold worth almost \$300 million at today's prices and idol utensils worth about \$4 billion. The city was rich, lavish in the use of precious metals and stones and other costly materials. Babylon also became powerful politically, controlling almost all of the civilized world of its time.

Although it would have seemed foolish to predict it, that great city, that physical city, fell. It becomes a picture for our end-time society which also puts tangible and material possessions first, and hankers after liberty from the righteous demands of a righteous God. Physical Babylon quickly had become the world center of all that is evil (harmful), man-organized religion, man-developed power politics oriented to empower a few, and man-sponsored commercialism for selfish enrichment. As physical Babylon's self-seeking brought destruction to the things and the people associated with it, so will the end-time concentration on what pleases the natural mind and on what gratifies the carnal desires entrap the world which has become the counterpart of spiritual Babylon.

**:1** At the beginning of the Great Tribulation period, when Christ approaches unseen to consummate the plans made before the foundation of the world, His glory and splendor and brightness will shine through His specially chosen Body of Christ, His Bride. These specially chosen shall be empowered as no people have ever been empowered on this earth.

**:2** "Babylon's" destruction truly begins at the start of the Great Tribulation. This fact will be recognized by the watchful, but the world will be too troubled to look. An overlapping of two ages occurs during this period as the present age progressively dims out and dissolves, and the new age begins to take shape and brighten. The specially chosen of the Body of Christ therefore will still be working in the environment of religious Babylon, which is the great harlot (*Rev. 17:1*) and the woman Jezebel (*Rev. 2:20*).

Isaiah's prophecy in about 760 B.C. foresaw Babylon's destruction, both physical and religious Babylon (*Isa. 13,14*). That prophecy speaks against Satan as the king of the spiritual, worldwide Babylon (*Isa. 14:4-20*) and foretells a release of the whole earth from his unrelenting persecution (*Isa. 14:4-7*). The prophecy was repeated by Jeremiah in about 600 B.C. describing the break down of the physical Babylon as a type of the end-time break down of the world-encompassing religious Babylon (*Jer. 50 and 51*).

The "world" of man, the kingdom of Satan, has become the resort of demons, foul spirits and every foul and detestable bird. In the organization of man (the world), every self-seeking fox and every religious bird have lodging places, but there is no place in this system for the Head of the Body of Christ (*Matt. 8:20*).

**:3** Christ and His Body are excluded from the system, because the rulers and leaders of the world have chosen self-seeking and self-gratifying alliances (idolatry or fornication) with the religious, political, commercial harlot who is "Babylon." Christ is excluded, because the rulers have offered the wine (faith and spirit) of

unchaste Babylon to their subjects, who have become intoxicated from drinking it. Christ is excluded, because the idol of material wealth has been offered and taken by the businessmen of the world.

The understanding of the kingdom of Satan in the world must become clear, for it is his avowed intention to utterly destroy all in the human race aligned with the Christ Spirit. He almost succeeded in the confrontation with Adam and Eve. He again was on his way to success when he subverted the believers of Noah's time to the point requiring the wholly righteous God to intervene by the flood, through which He brought only eight persons. A little longer and many or all of those eight surely would have been brought to destruction also. Then Satan concentrated on the nation of Israel to prevent the emergence of the Savior. Ever since the revealing of God's promise through the Gentiles, Satan has been developing his plans in the nations, and in especially picked nations, to bring them against each other so that no man would survive (*Matt. 24:22, Isa. 14:20*).

**:4** Therefore, there is an urgent and strong call to all who will to come out of the kingdom planning their destruction into the Kingdom of our Lord. That is a Kingdom of life, not of death. The essence of the teaching of the entire Bible is the coming of the Kingdom of God to earth, and the establishment of the reign of Heaven in the earth, until the entire earth is joined in perfection to the heavenly realms and they become one. At the time of the joining, that which is earthly will be transmuted and glorified, and will partake of the ultimate of what has been ordained by the Lord of all creation. A Kingdom implies both a Ruler and those who are ruled. The Ruler of *this* Kingdom is truly righteous. Therefore, He desires that *all* His subjects be brought into a realm where they can share in all that is within His power to bless them with, and to experience the full benefit of all that He is and all He possesses (*Jn. 16:15-16, Eph. 1:3*).

## The Kingdom Era

**A**ccording to God's promises of giving previews to His servants of all that He does (*Amos 3:7, Matt. 10:26, Jn. 14:2,29*), pictures already given show Old Testament Israel and the Kingdom in its initial or preparatory stages as the pattern of what was to be fully developed later. First, the Lord brought a people out of Egypt (a type of the world) to establish them as His Kingdom people to receive the blessings of His reign, and to manifest those blessings of the Kingdom to other peoples and nations. Israel was to be joined to the Lord as a Kingdom of priests and a holy nation (*Ex. 19:6*). They were to portray a type of what the Lord would later do through a people who would be joined to Him in the power of His Spirit. The people of Israel were initially placed under the physical tutorship of Law to learn important lessons. They were to show a pattern of what would be eventually established through the person and ministry of *the* King, coming in human flesh. Thus the nation of Israel was not the true Kingdom reality or the Kingdom era, but was a pattern, a prelude and a preparation.

The picture presented is like that of the human embryo within a woman, before it is given life by its human spirit then placed within it, and before the embryo-fetus is fully developed and born into the world as a living being. The true Kingdom is a living reality, like a living organism, born into the world and indwelt and ruled by a Spirit begotten of the Father. At first, the embryo is just a prepared vessel for a spirit begotten of the Father. At the proper time, the God-given spirit is placed within the vessel (*Zech. 12:1, Eccles. 11:5*) to initiate life in its physical and soul garments (*Jn. 6:63, Gen. 2:7*). So also the nation Israel was a developmental stage of the Kingdom, a vessel in preparation for manifesting the mighty Spirit of the Son of God in human flesh in that nation. Jesus took the developing embryo of the Kingdom and by His personal ministry He vivified it, giving it spiritual life.

The Law and the Prophets were until John; then the Kingdom was preached (*Lk. 16:16*). First, there had to be "law and order" in the physical formation; then the Spirit could take charge. John the Baptist, as the forerunner of the Messiah, ministered to a godly remnant in Israel, and brought the Kingdom embryo to the place where it could be vivified by the mighty Spirit of the Son of God. Then, by His own Spirit incarnated within the body of the Nazarene, the Son of God did personally bring life to the Kingdom embryo and developed it to the stage at which it could be born as a living organism. By His personal ministry, He took a remnant of the physical seed of Abraham, those who had received the preparatory ministry of the Law and the Prophets (including the ministry of John the Baptist), those who were coming forth as the embryo stage of the Kingdom, and He vivified that remnant into spiritual life in preparation for birth.

The Son of God further prepared for the birth of the developing prenatal Kingdom by personally taking upon Himself all the failures of the nation of Israel and the entire human race. He took upon Himself all that the Law had brought about through its curse

on the disobedient, by dying on the Cross as sin's perfect ransom price.

Before a baby is born from its mother and in the moments of its birth into new life, it is very near death, actually going through the pangs of death just before breathing in the atmosphere of its newfound environment. And the Son of God, after bringing the vivified fetus of the Kingdom to the time of birth, personally went through the "birth pangs" of death on its behalf, vicariously suffering that the Kingdom might be brought to birth. So did that remnant to which He had given spiritual life also go through the agonies of the death of its expectant hopes centered on its Messiah, for by His crucifixion the Disciples' expectations were shattered and ended.

But note the pattern. After the "birth pangs" of death, the Son of God came forth from the grave "breathing" the new atmosphere of glorified life. A new thing had been born; a new Life had come forth. The Firstborn of a new Kingdom realm had been manifested; and those who thought their hopes had ended also found new life. It was the time for the Kingdom on earth to begin in reality and power, for the patterns through natural Israel had run their course and that which was preparatory was now to give way to the Kingdom realm in fact. When Jesus was raised from the dead into life forevermore and when He imparted His own resurrection life to His Disciples, then was the Kingdom on earth a reality. That which had been developing as an embryo under John the Baptist, was then vivified by the personal ministry of Jesus Christ, and finally experienced death pangs during His crucifixion and entombment, was now brought forth in birth as a living reality.

Now was the King ready to ascend to begin His reign as King-Priest after the order of Melchizedek (*Heb. 5:10, 7:17*). Although the schools of man's darkness teach that the Kingdom is yet future, the Kingdom *became* a reality when Jesus came forth from the tomb. It was made *manifest* to the Disciples in the upper room after Jesus breathed upon them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (*Jn. 20:22*). It began in *spiritual power* (*Acts 1:8*) on Pentecost when the 120 received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Kingdom since has been a living reality, a spiritual organism, and a realm of potential power, blessings and glory for all who hear and heed its truths.

However, man has preferred to limit his God. Man has looked at his own inadequacy to comprehend and live in the full reality of the Kingdom realm. As a result, man has chosen to postpone that reality to some future era, covering his own ignorance and spiritual stupor by relegating that which is a present reality to a future hope. This has been the blinding error which has enabled Satan to score a triumph in this world of material things. Blinded teachers have held out vague "hope so's" in a world of uncertain tomorrows, rather than preaching and demonstrating the present reality of a Kingdom which meets the needs of people here and now. There will yet be greater manifestations of the Kingdom in the ages to come, but this is only because man's willful ignorance and unbelief has necessitated a delay in the fuller expressions, until a people has been prepared to both receive and implement its ever-increasing realization. The new age which is now beginning to dawn is sometimes called the "Kingdom Age," but only because it will see the realization of this greater manifestation. Dispensational truth has its place in God's plan, but let no one wrest it into a distortion of present Kingdom truth and the reality of an ever-reigning Christ over those who are His, until they enter their maturity and Christ places them with the Father.

What must be done to participate in this Kingdom? People do not benefit from the

reign of any king and his realm if they are not citizens. It is true that each one is physically born into this world as a citizen of Lucifer's kingdom of darkness, where each one remains until transferred out of that kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light (*Eph. 2:19, Col. 1:13*). But the transfer is accomplished only by way of another birth – “you must be born again” (*Jn. 3:7*), for to be born again means being given life by the Father, being regenerated within.

The initial transfer into the Kingdom can be viewed as both a birth and a conception. It is a birth into citizenship in the present Kingdom of Christ, the earthly Kingdom. But with reference to a full entering into the coming heavenly Kingdom in joint heirship with Christ, it should be seen as a conception. The initial transfer is by the planting or impregnating by the incorruptible seed of Christ (*I Pet. 1:23*). It brings immediate eternal life to the soul (*Jn. 5:24, Jms. 1:21*) and causes it to be born into the present Kingdom of Christ. But the ultimate entering into the full Kingdom of the heavenlies involves also the redemption and saving of the physical body (*Rom. 8:23, I Thess. 5:23*). Thus with reference to that realm and the “birth” of the entire being *out of* the earthly into the heavenly, the initial transfer into the earthly Kingdom is but a conception.

This application was exemplified in the life of the man Jesus Who lived His life as a pattern for His followers. At the age of reason, He entered His Father's business. The Holy Spirit brought Him into His Father's earthly Kingdom. Later, He was baptized by the Holy Spirit. But then the pattern extended through His subsequent “birth” from death into glorified life. Jesus was the first to be “born” into the heavenly Kingdom with a glorified body, and His purpose is to bring many sons into glory (*Heb. 2:10*). He is also called the Firstborn from the dead (*Col. 1:18, Rev. 1:5*).

According to the parallels, the embryonic Christian life in the earthly Kingdom begins to grow and develop after its conception, but not until it is vivified by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit does it receive the spiritual quickening and energizing necessary to bring it to full maturity for the heavenly Kingdom. This is also true of the embryo in the womb. At the proper time after conception, it must receive the quickening of a spirit from God, or it cannot continue to develop fully and be ready for birth (*Jms. 2:26*). Without the quickening, it will miscarry. And this is what happens in the lives of so many Christians. They miscarry by failing to arrive at that place of spiritual maturity necessary to ready them for birth in the heavenly Kingdom. It does not mean they lose their salvation at death. It simply means they must come back to the earth in resurrection and mature in physical bodies that are still confined to the womb of the earth, rather than being “born” *out of* the earthly into the heavenly.

This “birth” into the heavenly Kingdom involves a complete change of the physical body into a glorified body just like Christ's glorious body (*Phil. 3:21*). For some this will be by means of resurrection into glorified life when Jesus returns for His chosen saints (*I Thess. 4:16-17*). For others, it will take place as a change or translation while living (*I Cor. 15:51-52*). But for each there is a prior requirement for adequate maturing, development and perfection in completion (*Matt. 5:48*), before becoming ready for “birth” into the heavenlies.

Jesus spoke of the requirement for full *entering* (“birth”) into the earthly Kingdom. Except a man be born *out of*, delivered through the water (water being a symbol of the Word which cleanses soul-dominated life) and from the implanting of Christ's immortal

seed by the Spirit, he cannot enter the earthly Kingdom of God (*Jn. 3:5,12*). This is the vivifying experience so necessary for whoever would be made ready for taking citizenship in the earthly Kingdom (60-fold). It is a second generating or enlivening, by the Spirit.

It follows the initial granting of preservation by the blood of the Lamb, begun by renouncing the rule of "Pharaoh" and moving toward Christ and *seeing* the Kingdom from its outskirts (30-fold). It is being "born" or generated out of the "water" or soulish realm into a realm of the developing rule of God's Law in the heart. Continuing on toward Christ (following further into the provisions of His plan) brings the transfer and implanting of His immortal glorified seed (60-fold). Then, as a result of dedication to His rule being established, a complete setting apart is undertaken by the Holy Spirit, which is designated in Scripture as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (*Matt. 3:11*). "...*the Tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory*" (*Ex. 29:43*). Holy Spirit Baptism is for completely sanctifying (setting apart) the human tabernacle to and for the glory of God. There is an impartation of Divine substance corresponding to the glory cloud in the Tabernacle pitched by Moses, and this glory substance is to fully sanctify the human tabernacle to the complete severance of every *bent* toward sin (*Gal. 5:16*).

Very few understand this. Few believe in its full accomplishment, and so few receive *full* benefit of its intended purpose. It is that Spirit powered phase proclaimed by Paul. Those baptized or submersed *into* Christ, being implanted by His seed, are at that moment potentially dead to sin (*Rom. 6:1-7*). To be baptized in water in full confidence of this truth is important, but it is not until the turning up of the fire of the Spirit that the faith exhibited in the physical act is fully implemented. With the power of Christ's seed within, and with care and diligence, one can manage his life and remain apart from sin. But it is only the complete setting apart by the Spirit that can bring one out of the water or soulish condition of bondage to the *desire*-nature which precipitates into sin. That sanctified one may still sin, but the compulsive leading into sin is severed. If he does sin, it is either because he chooses to do so, or because he allows himself to be drawn into it.

Baptism with the Holy Spirit and with Fire (*Matt. 3:11*) is not different in any way from Baptism of the Holy Spirit (*Jn. 1:33, Acts 1:5*). Fire is that which consumes, and our God is a consuming fire (*Heb. 12:29*). But what is it in us that He wants to consume? In the Old Testament times, it was the dead animal carcasses which were offered, burned and consumed on the Altar. These carcasses did not provide for atonement, for it was the blood *previously* taken from the slain animal and sprinkled on the Altar that provided the atonement (*Lev. 17:11*). The symbolism of the shed blood related directly to the atonement or saving derived from the application of the blood of Christ in the New Testament Era.

What then is the symbolism of the burning of the dead carcasses, and why was it an offering made by fire, a sweet and satisfying odor to the Lord (*Ex. 29:18, Lev. 1:9*)? Since the vicarious sacrifice of Jesus Christ for all men, we see that our self, our "old man of sin," potentially *has been* crucified with Christ (*Gal. 2:20, 5:24; Rom. 6:6-8*). We are not taught to try to literally crucify ourselves, but by faith to realize that *in Christ* we have *already* been crucified with Him. In His death, He not only made provision for our forgiveness and salvation through His blood, but He also made provision for our complete deliverance from sin. Therefore, on the basis of what we know He has done



in His sacrificial death, at the moment of soul regeneration (60-fold) we should reckon (accurately account) ourselves to be dead to sin – and then not sin (**Rom. 6:11**). However, the realization of this truth and its acceptance by faith is only a part of the picture.

Jesus teaches that a good tree cannot bring forth harmful or bad fruit, and a corrupt tree (person) cannot bring forth good fruit (**Matt. 7:16-19**). As a result, the tree that does not bring forth good fruit is cut down and cast into the *fire* to be consumed, just as the dead animal carcasses were placed on the Altar for being consumed by fire. Our corrupt sin-nature, the inheritance of the Adam race, cannot bring forth good fruit and so God's plan is exactly as pictured in the tree parable. This sin-nature needs to be cut down (crucified with Christ) *and* cast into the *fire* (Baptized with the Holy Spirit and Fire). John the Baptist alluded to the same pattern of cutting down that tree and casting it into the fire (**Matt. 3:10**) and, in the next statement, tells that it is Jesus Who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and Fire (**Matt. 3:11**). Few Christians realize that it is God's purpose, *at the moment* of Holy Spirit Baptism, to *burn* to the very core of their being and "purge out" their very sin-nature, so that *at that time* they each might be free from the bent or tendency to sin. To sin is still possible, but then its bondage is broken!

Before its construction, God said, "*. . .the Tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory*" (**Ex. 29:43**), expressing His firm intent. Just a short time later, when the Tabernacle was completed and *totally dedicated* to the Lord, the glory of God covered it and filled it (**Ex. 40:33-35**). This was at the *beginning* of its use. A similar picture-parable was also presented in His plans for Aaron. Even as Aaron (a type of the enlightened who become the Glorious Church) was demonstrating his sin-nature (**Ex. 32:2**), God was continuing His preparation to likewise sanctify Aaron so that he could minister in the High Priest's office (**Ex. 29:44**). *Before* being consecrated, before starting the job, he partook of the initial cleansing rites which included the application of blood that had been shed (**Lev. 8:30**). Before taking up the duties of ministering in power, he was instructed to wait at the Tabernacle door inside the Holy Place (picturing the 60-fold position) for seven days. He was to thoroughly dedicate the whole of his being to the Lord's plan in preparation for the consecration (**Lev. 8:33-35**). After the cleansing with water (washing of the Word, the work of the Spirit's living water, also a type of Water Baptism) and the sprinkling with anointing oil and blood (to type dedication to the Lord's work, and inner purification), and after the proving of dedication to the best of his ability during seven days, Aaron was told to place his sacrifices on the Altar (symbolizing the presentation of the whole of self-life). When the presentation to the Lord was completed on that eighth day, the glory of the Lord subsequently appeared as promised; *fire* came out from the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle (from the Lord), flashed over the sacrifices and instantly consumed *all* that was placed on the Altar (**Lev. 9:23-24**).

All this is a type of what is to become the experience of the human tabernacle. Our bodies are the tabernacles or temples in which God is to dwell by His Holy Spirit (**1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19**). We also are in training to become priests to Him (**Rev. 1:6**). The acceptance of Jesus Christ (the Living Word) as Savior is accompanied by the initial cleansing (**Jn. 5:24, 15:3**). This is always to be followed by an active waiting on the Lord in a growing recognition of and dedication to His plan. In this pattern, newly regenerated Christians should concentrate on quickly giving up selfish goals and dedicating their whole being to the Lord during a period of seven days following acceptance of Him as Deliverer and Savior, in order that He might anoint them and pour out His Spirit upon

them. This pouring out is to be as the *fire* which fell upon the Altar on the eighth day to *consume* the animal bodies offered as sacrifices. The animal bodies here are symbolic of the basic tendencies, habitual inclinations and compulsive drives of unregenerate human nature. God's glory, unmistakable glory, fills the "tabernacle." Thereafter, it should be impossible for any temptation from the enemy to enter in and raise the fruit of sin through harmful thoughts or emotions maturing into physical response.

It was on the eighth day that the fire fell. The sequence of events shows that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, when properly understood and benefits fully received, fulfills the type or symbol of circumcision, which also was performed on the eighth day after birth (**Gen. 17:12**). Circumcision is a severing or cutting away of "flesh"; it dramatically pictures a surgical removal of the sin-nature or temptation into sin which ensures bondage to the corrupt works of the flesh. After provisional preservation by Christ's blood, Christians are "born" of the Spirit (60-fold), receiving the eternal life of the physical implanting of Christ's incorruptible seed from His glorified body (**I Pet. 1:23**). This entering into new life corresponds to the birth of a new babe. Then as the babe was circumcised on the eighth day, so should the dedicated Christian receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire (the consuming of the very core of the sin-nature) on the eighth day following. That Baptism is truly the spiritual circumcision of the heart, if there is proper understanding of the Lord's pattern and if the benefits are taken to be fully maintained.

These types picture the Holy Spirit Baptism penetrating to the very core of one's being to cut away or sever at that instant all that binds a person to his rebellious self-desire nature (**Heb. 4:12, Col. 2:13-14, Gal. 5:16, Rom. 6:1-7**). However, because the keys of knowledge (true understanding) were taken away (**Lk. 11:52**), most of us have missed the schedule for these events and have not received the benefit provided by the Lord. But He is merciful and, after years of ignorance of God's plan and unbelief, many have come to see and to believe and *have* received.

Baptism with the Holy Spirit and Fire is available to every regenerated Christian who will qualify through adequate dedication (**Jn. 3:5, Rom. 2:11**). As in the type, a whole burnt offering (the entirety of one's being) is to be sacrificed to the purposes of God (**Rom. 12:1-2**), being placed on the Altar with willingness to have His complete purging. When He sees that one ready in *proven* dedication, He is eager to accept the offering. At His acceptance, the "fire" falls; and that one's whole being is charged and filled with His glory. Valid gifts from the Spirit (**I Cor. 12:7-11**) will again undoubtedly be manifested at the time of and subsequent to the Great Outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the "second" Pentecost.

Fire not only consumes and purifies, but also provides energy and power (**Acts 1:8**). Baptism by the Holy Spirit provides a stepped-up potential (as it is developed by the user) which makes possible a victorious Christian life and a spiritual ministry in building others beyond what is otherwise available. The Christian who has not received this Baptism has the Holy Seed within, but his potential is something like low-voltage electrical current flowing through a conductor with resistance in the circuit. A heavy current cannot flow. His functioning is in contrast to the phenomenon of high-voltage electrical current flowing through a conductor in a circuit which has been modified by overcoming the resistance. But a great charge of power *can* flow through the "conductor" of the Holy Spirit Baptized person, because of the Baptismal operation. Fire also provides light, so the person receiving the Baptism by the Holy Spirit has a greater potential for being guided into all truth (**Jn. 16:13**); the guidance is one of the several functions of the Holy Spirit. Fire also provides warmth, which corresponds to love.

The love from God is poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (*Rom. 5:5*).

It follows then that, for the Christian who has full understanding and belief and who experiences the influx that begins at the Baptism by the Holy Spirit with Fire, there is far greater potential for demonstration and development of the works of the Spirit (*Jn. 7:38-39, 14:12,14,16,21,26, 15:26, 16:7-11,13-15, Acts 1:8, Eph. 1:14, 4:12-13*), the fruits of the Spirit (*Gal. 5:22-23*), the gifts from the Spirit (*I Cor. 12:7-11*) and the increasing possession of the complete armor of God (*Eph. 6:13-17*). (There are also various degrees of renewing the Holy Spirit Baptism. For further information request *HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM, THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE, SPEAKING IN TONGUES, SPIRIT BAPTISM: WHAT, WHEN, HOW?* and more from Shepherdsfield.)

Those initially entered into the Book of Life when they turn toward God (30-fold), are to *see* the earthly Kingdom of God (being outside). Those “born” out of the water (the Word) and of Christ’s seed implanted by the Spirit (60-fold) are to *enter* into the Kingdom of God on earth (*Jn. 3:3-5,12, 5:24*). The immortal seed, received after the initial preservation by the blood of Christ, provides eternal life for the soul. But those who fail to go beyond the gaining of eternal soul life in their Christian experience, not receiving the full benefit of the Spirit’s work, of necessity will be resurrected back to the earth. They must finish out the course by returning to live in deathless physical bodies within the confines of the earthly Kingdom. There they will prepare and be made ready for eventual transition into glorified bodies and into heavenly position. The earthly Kingdom will become the nether pole of Christ’s own Kingdom situated in the heavenly realm around the earth (*Rev. 21:10*). Those on earth will see the heavenly Kingdom through the appearance of the glorified members from that heavenly Kingdom as they come to teach and give instruction. Those functioning in glorified bodies in the heavenly realm will have fully entered into the higher Kingdom, for they will have gone beyond soul salvation and enabled the Spirit to do His complete work in them.

There can be no full entering into the heavenly Kingdom and into joint-heirship with Christ there, until a perfecting work has been done. Therefore, the coming “adoption” or placement into full adult sonship (*Rom. 8:15*) will be the result of a finished redemption on earth. But finished redemption is to include redemption of the physical body (*Rom. 8:23, I Thess. 5:23*) so that it can then be transformed into a glorious body like Christ’s (*Phil. 3:21*). That which has been but a guarantee of inheritance or down payment or foretaste by the Spirit (*Eph. 1:13-14, II Cor. 1:22*), is to develop and eventuate into full purchased possession, the liberation by the Spirit into the glories of joint-heirship with Christ (*Rom. 8:17-19*). Then the words shall be spoken by the King of Glory, “*Come you blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*” (*Matt. 25:34*).

**:5** All who repent and call upon the Lord for salvation (preservation) prior to the close of the pouring out of the Bowls of God’s Wrath will be saved (*Acts 2:21, Dan. 12:1*), for they will have heard the call to “Come out of Babylon” (*Jer. 51:6*). “Come out of her My people and be clean” (*Isa. 52:11*). To be clean, one has to have been cleansed. There is no way for that cleansing, except through a personal experience with the Word of Jesus Christ. The adulterous mother Church, and some of her daughters, teach that their leaders have pull with God, and that a sinner can be cleared with God if the sinner will confess to them and give his “penance.” There is no Bible backing for such a satanic delusion. It is part and parcel of the “tares” sown by the enemy, appear-

ing to be good, but leading to sickness and death when freely eaten. The New Testament truths are founded on those in the Old, where man's complete redemption is shown through the rights and ordinances set forth by Moses (*Jn. 5:47*). These are types for our understanding today (*I Cor. 10:11*). The individual personally had to make his offerings, and there was no provision for even one of the congregation giving a shekel to the priest so he would arrange for the sin to be cleared.

The first and the greatest of the special Festivals was that of the Passover Lamb sacrifice. The lamb had to be owned and sacrificed by the owner. The law to that effect continued after the Exodus. In no instance could the priest do it for them. Later, the Passover lamb drama was fulfilled by the sacrifice of the Lamb of God on Calvary, but its purpose can only become effective for the individual who personally owns Him as his "Passover Lamb." No minister or priest can effect preservation of life for him. Come out of her that you be not partakers of her sins and that you do not receive her plagues. Her sins, not her prayers, have reached into the heavens.

***"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet and show My people their transgression. . ."*** (*Isa. 58:1*). God does not change (*Mal. 3:6*). What is the Lucifer version of this command? "See no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil. Find no fault in anyone and do not criticize, for God and His own will see but truth and good." Such are the weapons of hell, made to seem good to those who will not engage their minds to think about what is being foisted upon them as truth.

Another of these warped "truths" is the inability of anyone, except the Church or its ministers, to accurately interpret the Word of God and that the Bible is not written to be understood by the communicant. In this way, the treachery of the Church can remain hidden.

But it is also certain that the exposing of lies, foolishness in high places and common delusion never leads to popularity. Therefore, Jesus told His followers that they would suffer persecution and that they would even have to flee from city after city to preserve their lives. It was for the sake of Christ's Name and His teaching (*the Faith*) that they were killed. The situation has changed but little down through Church history. Our Christian society today is not the Kingdom of God, nor of His Christ. Lucifer is the chieftain and the earthly Kingdom is still his. Such as are actually true sons and daughters of Jesus Christ live as saboteurs in the devil's kingdom, a fifth column in the land of the enemy, ever exposing lies and evil, ever proclaiming Christ to the poor and humble and ignorant so that their lives may be transformed to experience continuous peace and joy and good.

Because the world was in the power of the enemy, God called Abram to come out of Ur of the Chaldees to set up the true Church of God, the "called-out ones." He called for a separation from the world to where God would have a chance to train Abram's descendants and form the nucleus of the army which would eventually overthrow Lucifer's kingdom. Then the Son of God came to personally head up that nucleus army and lead it into full-scale assault. But the camp of God's saboteurs had been infiltrated by the generals of Lucifer's army. The called-out ones were subverted. So they killed the Heir and cast Him out of the vineyard (*Matt. 21:37-38,45*). God foresaw all of this, so He was prepared to go to Calvary and atone completely for all the sins of all who would receive Him into their hearts. When His earthly physical body was killed, He would raise up a glorified body which the demons in human flesh could not conquer.

Then it became incumbent upon Him to provide similar bodies for members of that future Kingdom, so they too would not be subject to deceiving lies nor any temptation by the enemy incidental to human flesh (*Gen. 1:26*). For them, then, there can be no future debacles.

Still, Lucifer incants through the pulpits and elsewhere, "See no evil, hear no evil and just keep silent and mind your own business," because that is the policy which promotes the kingdom of Satan. The Word of God says, "Now, son of man, will you judge? Will you judge the bloody city? Indeed you *must* show her all her abominations" (*Ezek. 22:2*). Unless God has changed, His true and faithful must indeed continuously expose lies and deceits and all that ensnares the simple. To willingly wage that battle on earth, though receiving no thanks, is the reason for being chosen.

The Mother Church has and does hypnotize multitudes into doom. Millions of Protestants have swallowed a similar lie. Though they do not depend upon the sacraments and prayers of ministers, at least not to the degree of dependency in the Catholic Church, they have been deceived into believing that joining the Church gives them a "born-again" station and that the joining brings their visa to heaven. That is just as diabolically deceiving as the delusion accepted by Catholics.

Birth comes through a separation from a mother's body; is not this world system and arrangement the "mother" of us all, nourishing, teaching and protecting? Precisely from that must we be separated and given wholly to God. Then is one being born to God. When one energetically kicks out the ways of the world system in its ecclesiastical, political and economic divisions, and fully yields his heart to Jesus Christ and His ways, then that one is His "called out" and a member of His Church.

Study the Word instead of speeches and writings of man, becoming stuck on man's interpretation. It is written, "The inhabitant shall not say I am sick, for the people that dwell there shall be forgiven their sin" (*Isa. 33:24*). "Which is easier to say, Your sin is forgiven you, or to say, Rise up and walk? So you may know that the Son of Man has the power to forgive sins, I say, Rise up and take up your bed and go into your house" (*Lk. 5:23-24*). From both Old and New Testament, we know sin is clearly behind sickness.

Those deceived by Lucifer have prepared the road to Armageddon and have laid the foundations of the developing empire of the beast. Those who have *fully* come out of "Babylon," before the beginning of the Great Tribulation, will be used in coming against the evils of the system and to bring out all who will listen. Whoever will not hear the call and remains in "Babylon" will partake of the Bowls of God's Wrath as they are poured out on her and will perish (*Rev. 16:1, Isa. 13:9, Rev. 19:17-21*).

In these days now upon us, the Lord is moving in a way never seen on earth before. He is now preparing all who will "come out" for what is developing. He is now fulfilling what He portrayed in Scripture in the life of Joseph (*I Cor. 10:11*). Joseph was given a vision of an imminent seven years of plenty immediately followed by seven years of famine, a vision which is a type of what is to take place on this earth just before the close of this age. Joseph (increase, growth) is a type of the Christian dispensation even as Benjamin, his younger brother, is a type of the Kingdom Age now at hand. Because of faithfulness, Joseph was given wisdom and authority which was recognized by Pharaoh. He represents the faithful ones to whom the Lord will give similar wisdom

and authority at the close of this age to do a work which has never been done before.

Joseph was shown that during the years of plenty a certain portion was to be laid up and stored for future need, one-fifth of the total (*Gen. 41:34*). Then, during the years of famine, this one-fifth would be drawn upon by the hungry and needy. But what is an abundance in the flesh is a dearth in the spirit and what is an abundance in the spirit is likewise a leanness to things of the flesh. The "seven years of plenty" represent an abundance in the flesh, but the one-fifth portion laid up during that time is a type of that which is spiritual, for 1 is the number of Life and Light, and 5 is the number of grace and freedom. The first seven years portray the time at the end of this age when there would be an abundance of things of the flesh and most people would become engrossed with them, even as they were in Egypt (a type of the world order). During the seven years of plenty, most people were little concerned about the swiftly approaching years of famine; they had little or no knowledge of them. They were not aware of the special preparations being made by Joseph and those working with him. They were interested only in their material and physical enjoyment. They were as unconcerned about the one-fifth being stored up by Joseph, as in this day people are generally unconcerned about true spiritual realities. Even the churches are revelling in abundance of the things of the flesh provided by a materialistically oriented civilization. Abundance is almost everywhere. The thought of what is swiftly approaching is of little concern to the masses of people; it is relatively unimportant even in the minds of most Christians.

But there are some whom the Lord has prepared, as He did Joseph, who have been shown the vision of what is coming. They know the present abundance of material things is not going to last. They know trying days are coming such as have never been seen before. They know the trying days will bring conditions symbolized by the seven lean years of Pharaoh's dreams. They know that many people are going to agonizingly search for their God in those days of distress and trial. And they know that the Lord is now providing a special portion of revelation and understanding, as well as an added measure of His grace and His Spirit, for a special work in their hearts. They know that His providing is a preparatory work during the years of plenty so that the one-fifth, representing the spiritual, may be stored up within them. Even now is a Joseph company receiving the Lord's instructions to lay in store what He is making known to them.

The years of plenty in the realms of physical and material things are followed by the years of leanness in which all that has been in abundance will largely disappear. Conditions of privation and famine shall stalk the whole earth, and both Christians and unbelievers who have previously revelled in worldly pursuits and fleshly pleasures in materialistic affluence will find themselves in circumstances in which they cannot fully give vent to their desires. Even church groups which emphasize those programs and pursuits shall come to sudden and stark realization that the things formerly receiving their interest and attention are no longer available. Everything contributing to an affluent society will be drastically reduced as the world faces conditions of trial and testing such as never have been seen. But it will be during this time that those of the Joseph company, having been faithfully prepared by their God, shall be used extensively and intensively to give to whoever will be crying out in desperate need. Many previously engrossed in the fleshly and the material shall turn toward the Lord and seek out those who have His bread to give, even as Joseph was sought out. Then, there will be an abundance of that which is spiritual. Many shall receive the "one-fifth part" from those prepared by their God, the "1" of Light and Life, and the "5" of freedom and grace, and



they shall enter into the spiritual during the days of leanness in material and carnal things.

The years of plenty are now closing. Before long the conditions represented by the lean cows and the lean ears of grain will dominate. Among ancient nations, the cow was always an indication of wealth; it was the animal on which man depended for work as well as for certain basic necessities. Therefore, the lean cows represent the time when the buying power of wealth will largely be sapped through inflation and spiraling prices. It will take most of what men are able to make just to meet bare living expenses. Because of shortages brought about by famine conditions in many parts of the world, because of war preparations and internal disturbances and chaotic civil conditions in many nations, because of prolonged strikes and because of the increasing demands from the population explosion, prices on almost everything will skyrocket and the affluence represented by the fat cows will be a thing of the past.

The lean ears of grain also represent great shortages of food, for grain is man's basic food. They are symbolic of diminishing food supplies around the world. The short supply will be brought on, not only by the population explosion, but by unprecedented conditions of drought, crop failures, pestilence and unusual weather, including freak storms. Channelling of food resources to war zones will also cut down on available supplies. The Lord has given the warning because these conditions are imminent. He has said no Christian will be able to avoid the testing – except the 144,000 of His Bride company. Limited availability of food is certain to be one of the areas of testing which will apply especially to the Christian – no matter what he has previously done to offset that probability.

Because of the nearness of the time of trial, it is vitally important for those whom the Lord has called and chosen, like Joseph, to quickly give themselves unreservedly to the Lord so He may continue to store up in them the “food” which can then be made available to many in the coming days. Many shall yet turn toward the spiritual, and so the Lord *must* have a people who are prepared to give help in that hour.

Joseph was 30 years of age when he was raised out of the dungeon to begin his work (*Gen. 41:46*). The Levites under the law of Moses were also 30 years old when they began their service to the Lord (*Num. 4:3*). David was 30 when he was made King over Israel (*II Sam. 5:4*). Likewise, Jesus was 30 when He began His ministry (*Lk. 3:23*). The pattern shows that there must be a time of preparation before the Lord can begin to use people in power. In the number “30,” the “3” is the number of the Word and it is in the second placement, that of the soul (30), indicating the Word must be stored in the depths of the soul by the revelation and work of the Holy Spirit. Joseph was used by God during the years of plenty to do a certain work, but his main task was giving out food during the lean years. A Joseph company today is also being prepared for the great work that must be accomplished. Even though many are now making God's Word known, they are yet in preparation. Practice in presenting the Word now is to develop knowledge of and exclusive reliance on Jesus Christ. Therefore, all who truly desire the Lord's preparation should give themselves wholly to Him to be made readied vessels for the days of Tribulation.

Since this is now the day of preparation, the Lord would also have you prepare yourself for the developing need. Today is the day of the Lord's preparation. No sane man goes into battle without preparation, nor into an athletic contest without training. If

you do not let the Lord prepare you, you will surely not be able to stand; He must do a work in your life which has never been done before. He is willing and able to take you to Himself, to prepare you as a vessel which He can then use and with which He will then manifest His glory. But first, you must be willing to submit to Him in everything, every detail of your life. He must take you and remold you and make you a fit vessel to contain all that is necessary to withstand all onslaughts of the enemy in this evil day.

Each one born of His Spirit (*Jn. 3:5*) has the potential to become a fully matured son of God, for His seed has been planted within. That seed has the complete potential of the One from Whom it was taken. When the regeneration takes place, His seed is planted within, the seed of the Holy One of God, the Savior of the world (*I Pet. 1:23*). That seed contains a Divine dynamic power which is capable of restructuring the entire soul and physical body to where it reverberates to the vibrational pitch of the One from Whom it was taken. Without the implantation of that seed as a centered concentration of Divine power, there would be no possibility of any consequential change in human life. It is from the implantation of the Divine seed that the very Divine Life of the Son of God unfolds. However, there must be a favorable environment and certain conditions for that seed to grow and to fully unfold its Divine life and potential within.

First, for you, there should be an absolute separation from those things which would keep the living seed from shooting forth its Divine Life potential and filling your life with the fruit of its Divine attributes. This requires complete separation from things of the world order which choke the good soil; of your heart and cause the living seed to be stayed in its growth potential. The things of the world hinder the work of preparation He would do within. You become burdened with the cares and concerns of life. The burdens of the world press down upon you and begin to take over and crowd out the Divine Life potential which is placed within. You should separate yourself from the corrupting influences of this world, in fact, separate yourself from intimate association with all persons and things which tend toward defiling your life. The seed must have good soil in which to grow, unhampered by the choking and suppressing effects of worldly cares and desires.

Secondly, you should willingly spend much time with the Lord alone every day. This is absolutely essential. If you will eliminate from your life most of the concerns and activities which are purely in and of this world order, you will find much time released to be given to Him so He may draw you to Himself and minister to you in the secret, protected place. You should spend much time with Him seeking His "face," seeking to know Him from His Word. Then you will be honestly thanking and praising and worshipping Him with all your heart, and listening for His voice so that He may speak to you.

Thirdly, you should take His Word into yourself and live in it. You should eat it and absorb it, take it into your innermost being and hide it in your heart. *Study* several chapters of the Word daily. This takes time, so you will have to keep other activities which involve your time to a bare minimum. If you will gain the deliverance and the power enabling you to stand in the day of battle just ahead, you must count as nothing the *things* of this life and spend your spare time studying His Word and thinking of His ways for you. Otherwise, you will be caught short in the coming days and you will not be able to stand true in the ultimate testings, when all Christians shall be tried as never before.

Fourthly, you should fellowship with the Lord's people; He has programmed such fellowship for mutual edification and strengthening of the developing Body of Christians. Because none is complete in himself, truly you need one another. You should spend as much time as possible in such fellowship; study together that He may minister to you through one another. The Lord will cause His people to be joined together in this day as never before; they shall be bound and knit together for their own good and for their own protection. Who can stand alone; who can say that he needs no one? The Lord says you *will* need one another in the days ahead. In times of great stress, He will cause you to speak to and encourage one each another by being knit and joined together. Therefore, you should let Him join you now as members of one Body in the Lord.

You will need guidance in learning to keep yourself safe from false teachers and false prophets in this day, for truly they shall fill the land as a mighty flood. Therefore, the people of the Lord should let Him prepare them so they will not be deceived. It is written that the very elect would be in danger of being deceived, if they had not been prepared by their God (*Matt. 24:24*). The Lord promises to prepare you to discern that which is true and that which is false, by wise application of the Word of God you understand. If your heart is set upon Him to do His will and you study to learn it, He certainly will teach you His ways. But there is to be no mixture in your life, for the heart not set upon Him to know His truth and to search out His will shall surely remain in deception and become more thoroughly deceived. None shall continue to stand in this day, except those He has especially prepared. Therefore, He says, "Prepare, My people. I say again, prepare!" Cast all other things aside as nothing in comparison with the one supreme goal of seeking your God in His plan and separating yourself unto that. Until you will do this, you will *not* be able to stand.

**:6-8** In God's justice, the persistent wickedness of man is permitted to develop into a turning back upon itself in judgment. Those who continually choose to ignore or rebel against God's plan will be wiped out by means of their own wickedness (*II Chron. 20:22-25, Ps. 94:23*). Those of religious Babylon do not perceive that Jesus Christ, the Husband, has departed and left her a widow. In the midst of plenty, she views herself as a queen. But the days of plenty are quickly to end; all that which makes Babylon desirable is soon to be utterly consumed in a 13 1/2 day nuclear war holocaust affecting every nation and all people not under God's protection.

**:9-10** Rulers and leaders of the nations will be in great fear as they see the rapid destruction of their political freedom and economic systems.

**:11-15** Businessmen in every country will mourn as they see their nation's economic system deteriorate to the level at which people can afford only basic necessities, drying up the market for the "niceties" of living. Their objective has been profit from the traffic in everything, even the souls of men.

**:16-17** There is great sorrow as the value of accumulated wealth and investments, national and personal, rapidly slide down to almost nothing – wiped out.

**:18-19** International commerce is swiftly braked to a trickle as the whole Babylon system is shaken in the "great earthquake" from which only what is of God will remain standing (*Isa. 2:12-19*).

Only those who have permitted the Holy Spirit to work within, enabling them to

prepare and qualify for God's protection, will be able to stand in the final conflict of World War III during which everything will be burned out (*Jer. 51:25,58*).

**:20** Recognizing the victory of the Lord being demonstrated in the troubles on those of the world of Satan, the subjects of our Lord's Kingdom in heaven and His Kingdom on earth rejoice with a rejoicing unmatched in history.

**:21-24** The Mighty Angel, Jesus Christ (*Rev. 10:1*), executes judgment and ends the worldwide spirit of Babylon, in which lies responsibility for the deaths of the Prophets and saints and of all who have been slaughtered for their stand on Truth throughout past millennia (*Rev. 17:6*). He brings to an end that spirit which has incessantly worked to make the proclaimers of Truth ineffective.